



May 23, 2004

GEORGIA AGENCIES URGE CAUTION ON ROADWAYS MEMORIAL DAY

With the first summer holiday around the corner, the Department of Motor Vehicle Safety (DMVS) and the Georgia State Patrol (GSP) continue to emphasize safe driving and today urged motorists to plan extra time during Memorial Day travel in anticipation of heavier than normal traffic.

The 2004 Memorial Holiday covers a period of 78 hours beginning at 6 pm Friday, May 28th, and ending at midnight, Monday, May 31st. In an effort to increase awareness of the danger of travel accidents during this time, the DMVS estimates that 2,250 accidents will occur throughout the State resulting in 575 injuries and 13 fatalities.

“Wearing your seatbelt is still the single most effective way to save lives and reduce injuries on our roadways. We must get the message out to everyone especially teen drivers. Summer time is when teen-agers are more likely to be driving and are at greater risk of death or injury due to traffic crashes,” said DMVS Commissioner James R. Davis.

According to the DMVS Accident Reporting Division 11 people were killed and 554 others were injured in the 2,311 crashes to which law enforcement responded to during last year’s 78-hour holiday travel period. One of those killed one was riding a motorcycle, one was riding an ATV and one fatality was a pedestrian. Five of the victims were not using safety equipment. Eight of the 11 fatalities were alcohol/drug related.

Colonel George Ellis, Commissioner of the GSP, reminds motorists to use extra care during their holiday travel. “Plan your trips carefully, don’t drink and drive, and make sure your seatbelt is fastened at all times,” he said. “If you will be transporting children, take the time to make sure they are properly restrained as well.”